HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER To the PETITION Of both Houſes of PARLIAMENT.

Preſented at York the 23. of May 1642.

Concerning the disbanding of His Guard.

With the three Votes of both Houſes, of the 20.

LONDON,
Printed for *S. E.* in the yeere 1642.

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To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie.

The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parliament.

YOur Majeſties loyall Subjects, the Lords and Commons in this Parliament, doe humbly repreſent unto your Majeſtie, That notwithſtanding Your frequent Profeſſions to Your Parliament, and the Kingdom, and the late expreſſion in Your Anſwer of the thirteenth of May, to the Petition of the County of *York*, That Your deſire and intention is onely the preſerving of the true Proteſtant Profeſſion, the Laws of the Land, the liberty of Your people, and the peace of the Kingdom; Nevertheleſſe, with great grief, we perceive by Your Speech of the twelfth of May, and the Paper printed in your Majeſties Name, in the form of a Proclamation, bearing date the fourteenth of May, and other Evidences, That under colour of raiſing a Guard to ſecure Your Perſon, of which Guard (conſidering the fidelity and care of Your Parliament) there can be no uſe: Your Majeſtie doth command Troops both of Horſe and Foot to aſſemble at *York*, the very beginnings whereof were apprehended by the Inhabitants of that County to be an affrightment, and diſturbance of your Majeſties liege people, as appeares by their Petition preſented to your Majeſtie: The continuing and increaſe of which Forces is to Your Parliament, and muſt needs be a juſt cauſe of great jealouſie and danger to Your whole Kingdom.

Therefore we doe humbly beſeech your Majeſtie, to diſband

all such Forces, as by Your Command are assembled; And relying for Your security (as Your Predecessors have done) upon the Laws, and the affections of Your People, You will be pleased to desist from any further designes of this nature; contenting your Self with Your usuall and ordinary Guards: Otherwise we shall hold our selves bound in duty towards God, and the trust reposed in us by the People, and the fundamentall Laws and Constitutions of this Kingdom, To imploy our care, and utmost Power to secure the Parliament, and to preserve the peace and quiet of the Kingdom.

Die Veneris 20. Maii, 1642.

Resolved upon the Question.

I. *That it appeares, that the King (seduced by wicked Counsell) intends to make war against the Parliament, who (in all their consultations and actions) have proposed no other end unto themselves but the care of His Kingdoms, and the performance of all duty and loyalty to His person.*

Resolved, &c.

II. *That whensoever the King maketh war upon the Parliament, it is a breach of the trust reposed in Him by His people, contrary to his Oath, and tending to the dissolution of this Government.*

Resolved, &c.

III. *That whosoever shall serve or assist Him in such wars, are Traitors, by the fundamentall Laws of this Kingdom; and have been so adjudged by two Acts of Parliament, and ought to suffer as Traitors.*

Jo. Brown Cler. Parl.

His

His Majesties Answer to the aforesaid Petition, concerning the disbanding of His Guard.

Presented to His Majesty at York, *the* 23. *of May*, 1642.

WE cannot but extreamly wonder, that the causelesse jealousies concerning Us, raised and fomented by a malignant Party in this Kingdome, which desire nothing more then to snatch themselves particular advantages out of a generall combustion (which means of advantage shall never be ministred to them by Our fault or seeking) should not onely be able to seduce a weak party in this Our Kingdome, but seem to finde so much countenance even from both Houses, as that Our raising of a Guard (without further design, then for the safety of Our Person; an Action so Legall in manner, so peaceable, upon causes so evident and necessary) should not onely be looked upon, and petitioned against by them, as a causelesse Jealousie, but declared to be the raising of a War against them, contrary to Our former Professions of Our Care of Religion and Law. And We no lesse wonder, that this Action of Ours should be said (in a very large expression) to be apprehended by the Inhabitants of this Countrey, as an affrightment and disturbance to Our People; having been as well received here, as it is every where to be justified; and (We speak now of the generall, not of a few seduced particulars) assisted and sped by this Countrey, with that loyall Affection & Alacrity, as is a most excellent example set to the rest of the Kingdome, of care of Our safety upon all occasions, and shall never be forgotten by Us, nor We hope, by Our Posterity; but shall ever be payed to them in that which is the proper expression of a Princes Gratitude, A perpetuall vigilant care to govern them justly, and to preserve the onely Rule by which they can be governed, The Law of the Land. And we are confident, That if you were your selves eye-witnesses, you would see so the contrary, as to give little present thanks, and hereafter little credit to your Informers: And if you have no better intelligence of the Inclinations and Affections of the rest of the Kingdome, certainly the minds of Our People (which to some ends and purposes you represent) are but ill represented unto you.

Have you so many moneths together not contented your selves to rely

for ſecurity (as your Predeceſſours have done) upon the Affection of the People, but by your own ſingle Authority raiſed to your ſelves a Guard, (and that ſometimes of no ordinary numbers, and in no ordinary way) And could not all thoſe Pikes and Proteſtations, that Army on one ſide, and that Navie on the other, perſwade Us to command you to disband your forces, and to content your ſelves with your ordinary (that is, with no) Guard, or work Us in an opinion, that you appeared to leavie Warre againſt Us, or had any further deſigne: And is it poſſible that the ſame Perſons ſhould be ſo apt to ſuſpect and condemn Us, who have been ſo unapt in the ſame matter, (upon much more ground) to taxe or ſuſpect them? This is Our caſe, notwithſtanding the care and fidelity of Our Parliament, Our Fort is kept by armed men, againſt Us, Our proper Goods, firſt detained from Us, and then, contrary to Our command, by ſtrong hand, offered to be carried away (in which at once all Our Property, as a private Perſon, all Our Authority as a King, are wreſted from Us:) And yet for Us, to ſecure Our ſelves in a Legall way (that Sir *John Hotham* may not by the ſame forces, or by more raiſed, by pretence of the ſame Authority (for they ſay he raiſeth daily ſome, and know it no new thing for him to pretend Orders that he cannot ſhew) continue the War that he hath levied againſt Us, and as well impriſon Our Perſon, as detain Our Goods; and as well ſhut Us up in *York*, as ſhut Us out of *Hull*) is ſaid to be eſteemed a cauſe of great jealouſie to the Parliament, a raiſing Warre againſt them; and of danger to the whole Kingdome. While theſe Injuſtices and Indignities offered to Us are countenanced by them who ought to be moſt forward in Our vindication and their puniſhment, in obſervation of their Oaths, and of the truſt repoſed in them by the People, and to avoid the diſſolution of the preſent Government: Upon which Caſe the whole world is to judge, whether we had not reaſon, not wholly to rely upon the care and fidelity of Our Parliament (being ſo ſtrangely blinded by malignant ſpirits, as not to perceive Our injuries) but to take ſome care of Our own Perſon, and in Order to that, to make uſe of that Authority which the Laws declare to be in Us: And whether this Parliament with ſuch a threatning Concluſion, accompanied with more threaning Votes, gives Us not cauſe rather to increaſe then diminiſh Our Guard; eſpecially ſince we ſaw before the Petition, a printed Paper, dated the 17. of May, under-written *Hen. Elſing. Cler. D. Com.* commanding (in the name of both Lords and Commons) the Sheriffs of all Our Counties, to raiſe the Power of all thoſe Our Counties, to ſuppreſſe ſuch of Our Subjects, as by any of Our Commands ſhall be drawn together and put (as that Paper calls it) in a poſture of War, charging our Officers and Subjects to aſſiſt them in the performance thereof, at their perils: For

though

though We cannot ſuſpect, that this Paper (or any bare Votes, not grounded upon Law or Reaſon, or quotation of repealed Statutes) ſhould have any ill influence upon Our good People, who know their duties too well not to know, That to take up Arms againſt thoſe, who upon a legall Command (that is, Ours) come together to a moſt legall end (that is, Our ſecurity and Preſervation) were to leavy Warre againſt Us, and who appear in this County (and We are confident they are ſo throughout the Kingdom) no leſſe ſatisfied with the Legality, Conveniency, and Neceſſity of theſe Our Guards, and no leſſe ſenſible of the indignities and dangers (which makes it neceſſary) then We are Our ſelves: Yet if that Paper be really the Act of both Houſes, We cannot looke upon it, but as the higheſt of Scorne and Indignities; firſt, to iſſue commands of Force againſt Us, and after thoſe have appeared uſeleſſe, to offer, by Petition, to perſwade Us to that which that Force ſhould have effected.

We conclude this Anſwer to your Petition, with our Counſell to you, That you joyn with Us in exacting ſatisfaction for that unparallel'd, and yet unpuniſhed Action of Sir *John Hotham*; And that you command Our Fort and Goods to be returned to Our own hands; That you lay down all pretences (under pretence of neceſſity or declaring that is law) to make Laws without Us, and (by conſequence) put a Cypher of Us; That you declare effectually againſt Tumults, and call in ſuch Pamphlets, (puniſhing the Authors and Publiſhers of them) as ſeditiouſly endeavour to diſ-able Us from protecting Our People, by weakning (by falſe aſperſions, and new falſe Doctrines) Our Authority with them, and their confidence in Us. The particulars of which Tumults and Pamphlets We would long ſince have taken care, that Our learned Councell ſhould have been enabled to give in evidence, if, upon Our former offer, We had received any return of incouragement from you in it. And if you do this, you then (and hardly till then) will perſwade the world, That you have diſcharged your duty to God, the truſt repoſed in you by the People, and the fundamentall Laws and Conſtitutions of the Kingdome, and imployed your care and utmoſt power to ſecure the Parliament; (for we are ſtill a part of the Parliament, and ſhalbe till this well-founded Monarchy be turned to a Democracie) and to preſerve the peace and quiet of the Kingdome. Which, together with the defence of the Proteſtant profeſſion, the Laws of the Land, and Our own juſt Prerogative (as a part of, and a defence to thoſe Laws) have been the main end, which, in Our Conſultations and Actions, We propoſed to Our Self.

FINIS.